

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05159 080857 Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 SY-10 M-03 A-01 CCO-00 OPR-02 RSR-01 INRE-00

/151 W

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O 080808 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1983

DIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5159

SITREP # 1

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY, SITREP #1

1. AS OF 0700 Z BEIRUT AREA CALM AFTER LEBANESE ARMY
HAD EXPANDED CONSIDERABLE FIREPOWER (INCLUDING AIRCRAFT
AND TAK FIRE) AGAINST TARGETS IN AND AROUND REFUGEE
CAMPS IN GENERAL SOUTHEASTERN QUADRANT OF BEIRUT.
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05159 080857 Z

(SABRA/ CHATILA, BIR HASSAN AND BORJ EL BRAJNE CAMPS).
REST OF COUNTRY HAS THUS FAR REMAINED CALM DESPITE
FIGHTING IN BEIRUT ALTHOUGH ARMY UNITES IN SOUTH BEKAA
FULLY ALERT TO POSSIBLE INFILTRATION FROM SYRIA.

2. AT 0500 Z PRIME MINISTER HAFEZ RESIGNED AND CABINET
WENT INTO SESSION TO EXAMINE NEXT STEPS, MOST IMPORTANT OF
WHICH COULD BE DESIGNATION OF MILITARY MAN AS INTERIM
PRIME MINISTER.

3. FIGHTING WHICH BROKE OUT AT ABOUT 1900 Z MAY 7 APPEARS
IN LIGHT OF DAY TO HAVE BEEN DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY SOME
FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS TORPEDO ANY POSSIBILITY OF STABILIZING
FEDAYEEN- GOL RELATIONS ON NEW BASIS. ARMY G-2 BELIEVES
THAT PDFLP AND PFLP/ GC INVOLVED, PROBABLY SOME ELEMENTS OF
PFLP AND POSSIBLY SA' IQA AS WELL. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS
OF INVOLVEMENT ARMED ELEMENTS FROM LCP. BETWEEN 1900 Z
AND 1930 Z THERE WAS WIDESPREAD FIRING OF ROCKETS AND
MORTARS, DIRECTED AT TWO OR THREE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND AIRPORT BUT ALSO AT RANDOM THROUGHOUT CITY. AT SAME
TIME SEVERAL CARS FULL OF ARMED MEN DROVE THROUGH PARTS OF
CITY FIRING AT POLICE AND OTHER TARGETS. OBVIOUS DESIGN
WAS TO CREATE PANIC AND TOUCH OFF MAJOR ARMY- FEDAYEEN
CONFRONTATION.

4. AT TIME FIRING BEGAN, ' ARAFAT WAS MEETING WITH SEVERAL
LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING SAEB SALAM AND RAYMOND
EDDE, TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF TALKS WITH GOL ON MAY 7. IN
THESE TALKS (IN WHICH EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN REPS WERE PRESENT)
PRIME MINISTER HAFEZ HAD REACHED SOME SORT OF VAGUE
FIRST- STEP AGREEMENT ON ROUTE TO OBTAINING NEW UNDER-
STANDING. ACCORDING TO ARMY PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS, THIS
AGREEMENT NOWHERE NEAR AS DETAILED OR FIRM (OR AS PRO-
FEDAYEEN) AS ANNOUNCED BY SYRIA FONMIN UPON HIS RETURN
TO DAMASCUS. (THIS IS MERELY ONE OF REASONS FOR GOL
SUSPICION THAT SYRIAN HAND WORKING BEHIND SCENE.)

5. DEVELOPMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE WILL DEPEND ON SUCH
FACTORS AS WHETHER OR NOT ' ARAFAT WILL TRY AND BE ABLE
CALM BULK OF FATAH FEDAYEEN, KEEPING AS MANY AS POSSIBLE
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OUT OF FIGHTING; WHETHER OR NOT LEFTIST LEBANESE ELEMENTS
(LCP, BAATH, PPS, ETC.) AND SUNNI MOSLEMS GENERALLY JOIN
FEDAYEEN IN CONTINUING FIGHT WITH GOL; AND WHETHER OR NOT
GOL DECIDES ACTUALLY MOVE INTO CAMPS (WHICH IT HAS NOT YET
DONE). MORALE OF ARMY CONTINUES TO BE GOOD WITH NO SIGN
OF MOSLEM/ CHRISTIAN DISSENSION. REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN
BROUGHT INTO BEIRUT AREA FROM SOUTH. ARMY CONTROLS AROUND

CAMPS AND CHECKPOINTS ELSEWHERE MUCH TIGHTER THAN BEFORE. ATMOSPHERE IN BEIRUT IS VERY TENSE WITH CURFEW REIMPOSED AND ARMY, IN ACCORDANCE STATE OF EMERGENCY, IN CHARGE OF ALL SECURITY. EMERGENCY LAW BEING USED TO IMPOSE STRICT CENSORSHIP ON PRESS AND ALSO AUTHORIZES ARMY ARREST VIRTUALLY ANYONE WHO SUSPECTED OF CREATING TROUBLE. NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES REPORTED AND NO AMERICANS KNOWN TO BE IN DANGER. EMBASSY WELL PROTECTED. AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY TOURISTS, ARE QUITE NERVOUS. WE ADVISING EVERYONE TO STAY PUT. AIRPORT CLOSED.

6. AT 0800 Z EMBOFF TALKED TO ARMY (KANAAN) WHO INFORMS US THAT ARAFAT IS TRYING CALM HIS TROOPS. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TONY FRANGIE TOLD US THAT NEW CEASE- FIRE HAS COME INTO EFFECT AS OF 0800 Z AND IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT PRIME MINISTER WILL ONCE AGAIN WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION. TONY CONFIRMED THAT GOL INTENDS TAKE TOUGH LINE WITH FEDAYEE IN ANY TALKS AND WILL NOT GIVE IN TO DEMANDS, REACH ANY SORT OF FORMAL AGREEMENT, OR ACCEPT SORT OF NONSENSE THAT KHADDAM ANNOUNCED IN DAMASCUS HAS BEEN AGREED UPON MAY 8.
HOUGHTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS
Errors: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, LE
To: AMMAN
DHAHRAN
DIA
JERUSALEM
JIDDA
LONDON
MOSCOW

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SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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